

July 2011

The Sacramento District Review

4 Lost Lodge Rd, Cloudcroft, NM 88317

575-682-2551

Logging Companies and Timber Products



Chippeway Sawmill

-Mickey Mauter

This is part two of a series of four that will cover the timber industry in the Sacramento Mountains. Articles include Logging Companies and their products, market trends, forest management, and current trends.

Timber companies and their products have evolved due to demand, markets, and product development. Trees removed from the Lincoln National Forest were first used by the Railroad to provide ties for an expanding rail system across the west.

By 1898 the demand for ties by the El Paso and Northeastern

Railroad made logging economically feasible in the Sacramento Mountains. By 1899

the Alamogordo Lumber Co. was built to mill the bread basket of old growth timber on the Sacramento Mountain. Loggers came from across the country, setting up camps built by whatever was available locally, to cut timber for the increasingly hungry Sawmill.

Lumber Companies, like the Sacramento Mountain Lumber Co., Southwest Lumber Co., Cloudcroft Lumber and Land Co., and the Breese Lumber Co. changed ownership due to legal issues, declining prosperity, fires, and competition.

From 1907 through 1941, some mills were located at the same

site of the original Alamogordo Lumber Co. in Alamogordo. Small Sawmills started operating within the Forest and took advantage of the need to supply lumber to the growing mountain communities and logging camps. By 1945 the cost of hauling by rail to Alamogordo became too expensive and was replaced by trucking the logs down the mountain.

Soon after the demand for railroad ties declined and the demand for studs and dimensional lumber (boards of different size and length) increased.

The Prestridge Lumber Company dominated the local industry from 1941 until 1960. At that time most of the quality timber was harvested and companies accustomed to milling high grade timber got out of the business.



Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.

Dwight D. Eisenhower



*From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring.*

Samuel F. Smith, "America"

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Making Pallets at Custom Crates and Pallets

This left only a few smaller mills to provide special orders of rough cut lumber to mountain residents

The larger Sawmills remaining were already re-tooling to take large amounts of smaller trees to fill the demand for housing studs and other dimensional lumber.

In 1971 the original site of the Alamo-gordo Lumber Co. became White Sands Forest Products and the primary product was 2x4 and 2x6 studs. This market remained strong while the housing market flourished.

In 2000 the bottom dropped out of the

lumber market and White Sands Forest Products closed its doors. It

was nearly a year later that Mescalero Forest Products purchased the old White Sands mill and incorporated it into their operation to process smaller trees being harvested on Mescalero and Lincoln National Forest.

In the fall of 2006 Mescalero Forest Products closed the old White Sands Mill, and in the fall of 2007 Mescalero Forest Products closed down due to a further declining housing market and increased cheaper imports.

The Sawmills operating today are mostly small family oper-

ated businesses supplying a variety of products to the local economy.

Some of the products being produced include: special orders for new housing designs; lumber for oil fields; log cabin kits; telephone poles and poles for landscaping; pallets and crates; new wood composites for making signs; chips for particle board; chips for animal bedding; firewood; and a variety of artistic crafts.

The Cloudcroft High School Agriculture class is making benches, stools, planters, and baskets out of a variety of forest products. Next month...market trends

Portable Sawmill at Wilkinson Sawmill



Slash Pit Schedule

Due to extreme fire conditions and current Forest Closure (Order No. 08-219) the Slash Pit will be closed until the closure order is rescinded.

For more information please visit the Sacramento Ranger District Office or call (575) 682-2551.



Office Hours

The Sacramento Ranger District Office is located in the Village of Cloudcroft, at #4 Lost Lodge Road, one mile south of Highway 82 on Highway 130. We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Federal Holidays. Open Saturday's, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. through Labor Day.

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A Career in the US Forest Service



SCEP Tina Apprill

Collects Cones.

- Lois Cadwallader

Have you ever thought about a career with the US Forest Service? If you have, here are some ideas and suggestions on how to get there. Whether the position is permanent or seasonal which range from six to nine months, the place to start is usually <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> or, for students, <http://www.opm.gov/employ/students/index.asp>.

Jobs may also be posted at area post offices, high schools, college job announcement boards, and at the Forest Service offices. Applications for the Youth Conservation Corps

(YCC) positions can be picked up at the District Office front desk.

Most other resumes/applications for Forest Service positions must be completed through Avue which can be located at <https://www.avuedigitalservices.com/casting/aiportal/control/mainmenu?agency=usfs>.

High School students interested in a paid summer job with the YCC can find further information at <http://www.fs.fed.us/people/volunteer/ycc.htm>. Application deadlines are usually in April.

College students interested in summer jobs with the US Forest Service can apply for the Student Temporary Employment Program of (STEP).

The STEP provides opportunities to students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as degree seeking students taking at least a half-time course load in an accredited high school, technical, vocational, two or four year college or university, graduate or professional school. These are temporary, seasonal positions.

The SCEP (Student Career Employment Program) takes this a step further with commitments on the part of both the agency and the student.

For those interested in Wildland Fire Fighting, permanent Hotshot, and Engine crew positions these are usually filled in late summer or fall through Avue.

Seasonal positions (hotshots, engine crews, fire prevention, fire clerk, information receptionist, etc.) are filled in the winter months and usually report to duty in March or April, so get applications completed in Avue early.

District Pre-Sale Forester Reese Bowen Takes a Core Sample

